

<i>Compactor Species</i>	<i>Technique for Compacting</i>
I	Auger Extruder(s)
II	Ram Extruder(s)
III	Briquetting

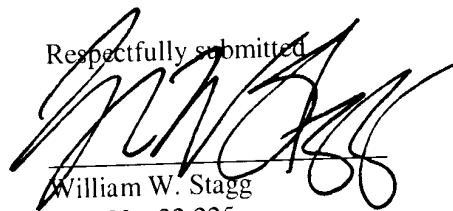
Applicants note that the Examiner thought that none of the claims as filed appeared generic. Applicants respectfully suggest to the Examiner that Claims 1, 22 and 28 are generic claims directed toward the method of using compactors in general for the disposal of drill cuttings and that extruders, both ram and auger, and briquetting devices are compactors and therefore claims directed to extruders and briquetting machines are patentably distinct species of Claims 1, 22 and 28. Applicants note that original claims 6 and 30 are directed to a briquetting machine as a patentably distinct specie of a compactor and that claims 5, 9, 10 and claim 29 are directed to an extruder as a patentably distinct specie of a compactor. Applicants had no original claims directed to either ram or auger extruders. In this response Applicant has added new claims 32 and 34 that are directed to auger extruders as a sub-species of extruders and new claims 33 and 35 directed to ram extruders as a sub-species of extruders.

Applicants respectfully suggest that all extruders, be they ram or auger operated and all briquetting machines, are species of a generic compactor. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw that the requirement to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits as the application contains generic claims directed toward compactors.

3. In the event that the Examiner does not withdraw his requirement to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits and requires an election to one of the three designated species set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action, Applicants hereby provisionally elect, without traverse, Species I, the species identified by the Examiner as Auger Extruders. It is thought that new claims 1 – 5, 7 – 10, 21 – 29, 31 and new claims 32 and 34 are readable thereon.

In consideration of the foregoing response, Applicants respectfully request that the Application be amended as set forth herein, that the Examiner withdraw the requirement to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits, and that claims 1 – 10 and 22 – 31 and new claims 32 – 35 be placed in line for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted



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